

MR. JOHN E. BEGGS

Beggs Family

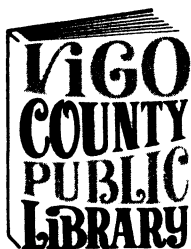
Special Collections

One of the Most Thoroughly Drilled Men in the Distilling Business

John E. Beggs was born in Lournal, Franklin county, Indiana, July 20, 1861, and is now in his 32d year. After attending school until he had gained a fair education he moved with his parents to Shelbyville, where his father was engaged in the distillery business. ~~Edbe-~~ Ed began work in the distillery as an apprentice and continued in the work until he had mastered the trade of a distiller and assumed control of the working force of his father's establishment. When Mr. Beggs, sr., came to Terre Haute to assume the duties of superintendent and manager of the Wabash Distilling company, Ed was employed in the distillery of A. J. Walsh & Co., of Cincinnati, Ohio. At the solicitation of his father he resigned his position in Cincinnati and came to Terre Haute, where he was made the foreman of the Wabash Distilling & Cattle Feeding company, the largest establishment of the kind in the world, which

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position he creditably filled from 1888 until October 4, 1892, when he resigned to enter the wholesale liquor trade with Mr. Hulman, who had become his confidential friend during their five years' business association. Mr. Beggs has a thorough knowledge of the manufacture of every grade of spirits, and is competent to judge as to the quality of goods handled. This, coupled with the fact that he is a man of sterling social and business qualifications, makes him a desirable man with whom to transact business, as on all occasions the buyer has the assurance that he will get just the grade of goods he pays for, a consideration which is of incalculable value in this branch of business. He is of a cheerful nature and enriched with a disposition which wins for him friends in the social walks of life and the most implicit confidence of those with whom his business brings him in contact. Although he has been in Terre Haute but a few years, he counts his friends by the hundreds and is never too busy to give each a cordial greeting. Mr. Beggs is fond of home life and with his wife and three bright-eyed children lives in a handsome residence on south Fifth street. Mr. Beggs takes no active part in politics but devotes his time strictly to his business, in which is he sure to succeed. He is a public spirited man and ready to aid any enterprise which tends to the upbuilding of the city and the employment of labor, and by this means is on the highway to becoming one of the desirable and substantial citizens of Terre Haute.



Scott Caswell
Box 5111
Peoria IL 61601

June 21, 1983

I did find a photograph, of sorts, of John E. Beggs in Some Terre Haute Phizes by Edward M. Lucas and B. J. Griswold. The photograph is of his head only with a humorous caricature for a body. The biographical sketch is also humorous, but there is a more flattering one in our Beggs family file.

However, I think it may be the father, John Beggs, in whom you are really interested. There is a photograph and a three page biography of Hon. John Beggs in Oakey's 1908 Greater Terre Haute and Vigo County. According to that, John Beggs operated a distillery in Shelbyville IN until 1886 "when he was instrumental in organizing the Distillery and Cattle Feeding Trust, with headquarters in Peoria IL." In 1884 he had come to Terre Haute and had become involved in the Wabash Distilling Company, serving as treasurer for several years. He also became vice president of the Wabash Lumber Company. In 1886 he and Crawford Fairbanks purchased the Terre Haute Brewing Company, and he became its vice president and general manager. In 1894 he became the vice president of the Distilling and Cattle Feeding Company, resigned from the Wabash Distilling Company, and moved to Peoria. In 1897 he returned to Terre Haute and remained here until his death in 1904.

John Beggs' three sons, John E., Harry W., and Thomas G., were all involved in the distillery business.

We have quite a bit of information on the Terre Haute Brewing Company but very little on the Wabash Distilling Company. The 1888 Terre Haute city directory was the first to list the Wabash Distilling Company. Adolph Woolner was president, George K. Duckworth vice president, John Beggs secretary, and Crawford Fairbanks treasurer. However, a biographical sketch of Henry J. Mueller in the 1922 Account of Vigo County from Its Organization, edited by William F. Cronin, says that Mueller came to Terre Haute in 1858 and found employment at the Wabash Distillery Company. Perhaps there were two distilleries with similar names.

If you would like photocopies from any of the above items,

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June 21, 1983
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our charge is 10¢ per page, plus postage. We could probably copy most of the information on John and John E. Beggs and Terre Haute Brewing Company for about \$1.

Nancy Sherrill
Nancy Sherrill
Genealogy Librarian

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June 17, 1983

Dear Librarian,

I am doing research on the Peoria-Pekin Illinois distilling business. It's entire history, from the 1830's to present. Included in this research is the subject of the Distilling and Cattle Feeding Co. which was also known as the "Whiskey Trust".

I am trying to track down material pertaining to John E. Beggs, of Terre Haute Indiana. In 1891, Adolph Woolner, 1st vice president of the D.C.F. Co. died and Beggs was appointed to replace him. Beggs had been owner or co-owner of the Wabash distillery at Terre Haute. This plant became a part of the D.C.F. Co. in the late 1880's. At least that's what I've been able to find out at this end. All I have to go on is old time newspaper articles and as Beggs wasn't from Peoria not that much was written about him.

Another thing. Sometimes the papers refered to him as John E. Beggs and sometimes just John Beggs. Some old government documents also use both names. Was it a father-son combination? If so, I want John E. Beggs. He was the one listed as the vice president of the D.C.F. Co.

This is what I need:

#1 priority; A picture of John E. Beggs. From a photo or drawing or both.

#2; Biographical material about Beggs and the Wabash distillery. Beggs birth and death. Other pursuits. Banking, politics, whatever. When the Wabash was built, by whom, other general information concerning the factory. A picture if you can find one. Who it was later sold to, if anyone.

Thank you very much for your time and help. I have enclosed a stamped, self-addressed envelope for your reply.

Sincerely yours,



Scott Caswell

Box 5111
Peoria, Illinois
61601

*Beggs, John E.
Bradley 674
Oakley 385
Lucas 386+387 ✓
Lucas 287+301 ✓*